

Community's Ideas Sought for Future of King Farm Farmstead

Rockville's efforts to engage the community in shaping the future of King Farm Farmstead Park, a 7-acre historic site at 1101 Grand Champion Drive, continue with upcoming opportunities for public input, both in person and virtual.

The farmstead comprises eight buildings at the northern edge of the King Farm neighborhood, including the main residence, horse and dairy barns, and outbuildings. The site was designated as a historic district in 2006 and is part of the city's park system.



will be held Tuesday, April 22. Both will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

"This is an opportunity for the community to play an active role in shaping one of Rockville's historic treasures," said Tara Stewart, director of the city's Department of Recreation and Parks. "We look forward to hearing from residents and working together to reimagine the King Farm Farmstead as a vibrant, functional space for generations to come."

The farmstead project will draw on more than a decade of input, including task force studies, property assessments and economic analyses. This foundational work will guide discussions as the city collaborates with a consultant to evaluate potential uses for each building on the property.

Public input will guide the Mayor and Council's decision on the property's master plan. To learn more, visit engage.rockville.com/kingfarm.

RCPD Annual Report Shows a Continued Commitment to Community Policing

The Rockville City Police Department hosted events throughout 2024 to engage with the community while continuing to provide a high level of service, interim Chief Jason L. West wrote in the department's 2024 annual report that was released in March.

A steering wheel lock giveaway, annual gun buyback and community training on use of the overdose reversal drug Narcan provided community engagement opportunities.

Meanwhile, while other police departments nationwide struggle to recruit and retain sworn officers, RCPD is experiencing an increase in recruiting new officers and civilian staff. "Investing in our greatest asset, our staff, remains one of the top priorities of the department," wrote West, who was appointed interim chief in

November.

The department includes 73 sworn officers and 23 civilian staff members. It was reaccredited in 2024 by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, recognizing RCPD as among the top law enforcement agencies in the country.

Each year, the department prepares a crime report under the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System.

"Overall, crime showed a moderate increase in 2024," the report said. Crimes against people, which include homicides, assaults and sex offenses, increased 99%, from 454 offenses in 2023 to 499 offenses in 2024.

Crimes against property, including burglaries, robberies,

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A map of the proposed 107.9-acre annexation area around the Shady Grove Metro station.

Rockville Advances Annexation of Land Near Shady Grove Metro Station

The City of Rockville is advancing a proposal to annex 107.9 acres of land near the Shady Grove Metro Station.

If adopted, the proposal would expand city boundaries and support transit-oriented development. The annexation, which includes property owned by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and CSX Transportation, was introduced by the Mayor and Council on Oct. 23, 2023.

Final consideration by the Mayor and Council is tentatively scheduled for their Monday, July 21 meeting.

The annexation area, located east of Frederick Road (MD 355) and north of Redland Road, is within Rockville's Maximum Expansion Limits, as identified in the city's 2021 comprehensive plan.

Annexation of the site aligns with Rockville's long-term vision for growth and development. With access to

Metro, planned bus rapid transit and walkable development potential, the area represents a key opportunity for economic expansion and improved connectivity.

Rockville officials are working closely with Montgomery County, WMATA and local stakeholders to assess the impact on public services, including police staffing and potential future development. The city's mixed-use transit district zoning is recommended for the site to support a mix of residential, office and commercial uses.

Rockville's Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the annexation during its Wednesday, April 23 meeting.

For more information on the public hearing, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter to review the staff report attached to the agenda, or select the TV icon next to the listing to watch the meeting.



RESOURCES FOR FEDERAL WORKERS ... Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/federalworkers for a list of resources for federal employees and other workers impacted by the federal government transition.

Go Green and Save Green With Permit Fee Waivers for Earth Month

Rockville to Waive Fees for Select Home Improvement Permits During April

The City of Rockville will mark Earth Month in April by waiving permit fees for certain environmentally friendly home improvements.

The city will waive all fees assessed by Rockville's Inspection Services Division that are directly associated with the residential installation of solar photovoltaic systems, electric vehicle charging stations and energy-efficient heating and cooling upgrades, such as heat pumps.

Applications must be submitted by Sunday, April 27 at www.mygovernmentonline.org and must be accepted by city staff by 5 p.m. Thursday, May 1.

For more details, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/permits-inspections or email questions to permits@rockvillemd.gov.

This program is in support of the city's Climate Action Plan, which was approved by the Mayor and Council in 2022. For more about the plan, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate.

For more information about the Climate Action Plan, see the article on page 5.

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622 Hungerford Drive

A new residential project has been approved at a site that has been used exclusively for offices in the past. Located at the intersection of North Washington Street and Hungerford Drive, the redevelopment envisions converting the property from existing office townhouse condominiums to 48 two-over-two residential multifamily condominiums. The site plan application for the project was approved by the Planning Commission earlier this year.



1700-1818 Chapman Ave. (Twinbrook Commons)

The development is located along Chapman Avenue, just north of its intersection with Twinbrook Parkway. The plans envision a 437-unit multifamily residential project with ground floor retail, as well as a new bus access point into the Twinbrook Metro station. The site plan was approved by the Planning Commission earlier this year.

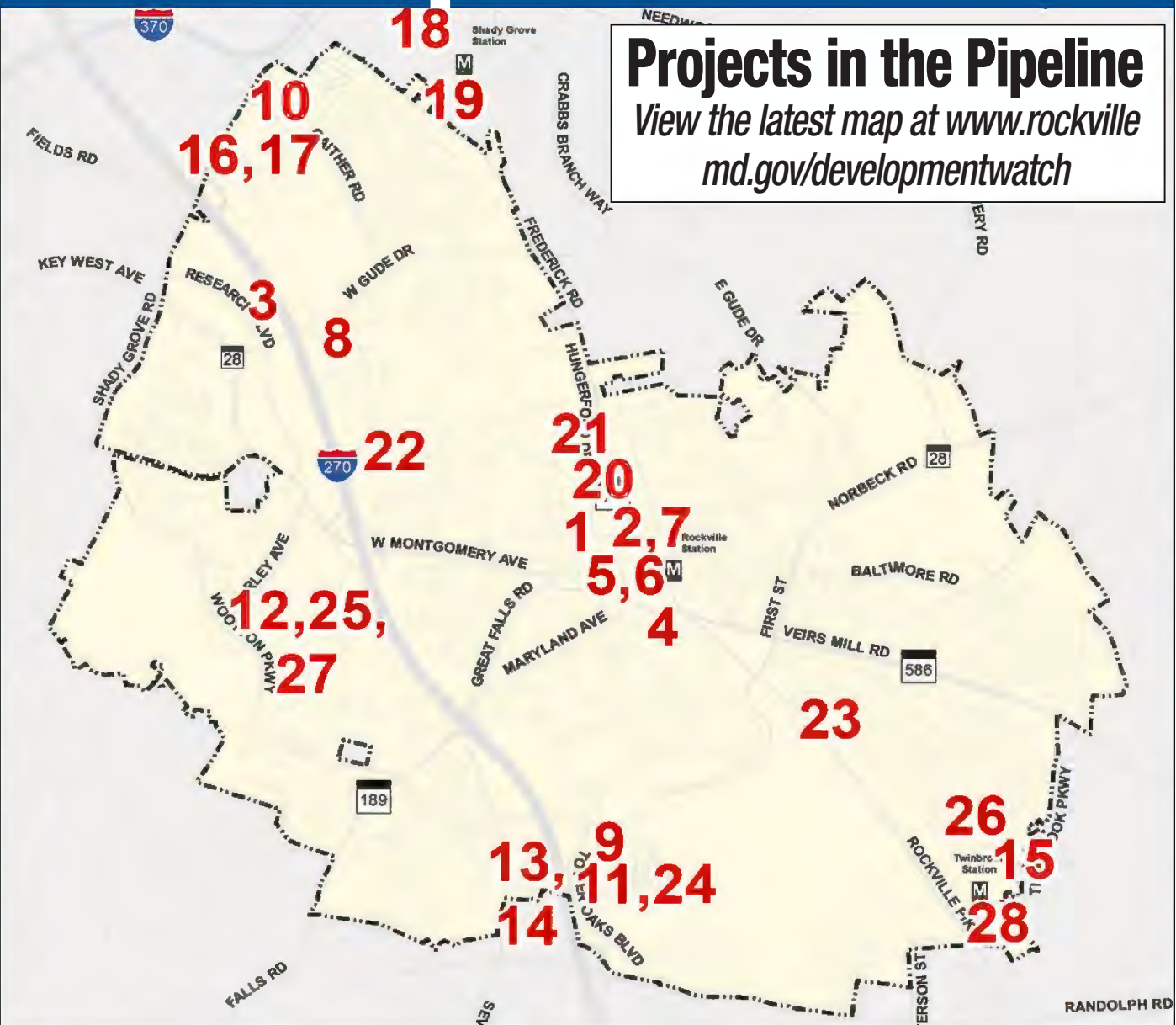
Rockville Advances Zoning Ordinance Update, Seeks Community Input

The City of Rockville is making progress on its initiative to modernize the city's zoning regulations and map, a project that includes updating the text of the zoning ordinance and revising the zoning map. This effort aligns with the goals outlined in the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which guides the city's long-term growth and development. As part of the update, the project includes rezoning certain properties to reflect the recommendations in the comprehensive plan. These changes aim to ensure Rockville's zoning regulations support the community's vision for the future. Residents and neighborhood associations interested in learning more about the project are encouraged to contact the city. City staff are available to provide overview presentations at community meetings. For more information, or to schedule a presentation, call 240-314-8223 or email zoning@rockvillemd.gov. Additional details about the zoning ordinance rewrite and comprehensive map amendment updates are available at engagerockville.com/zoningrewrite. Community input is vital to shaping Rockville's future, and residents are invited to stay informed and participate in the process.

Connect with us on Social Media.



Development Watch



Projects in the Pipeline
View the latest map at www.rockvillemd.gov/developmentwatch

- Recent Preapplication Submittals
The following are in the preapplication submittal process:
1. 41-44 Maryland Ave.: Preapplication area meeting for the development of affordable mixed-income multifamily housing. PAM2025-00156.
2. 255 Rockville Pike: Preapplication area meeting for a proposal to redevelop the site into multifamily housing. PAM2025-00155.
3. 1455 Research Blvd.: Preapplication area meeting for a proposal to redevelop existing office property into residential townhomes, stacked condos and multifamily condo units. PAM2025-00157.
Applications Under Review
The following applications are in the development review process:
4. 107 Fleet St.: Final record plat to resubdivide into two lots to facilitate improvements under STP2024-00481. Case PLT2025-00626.
5. 198 E. Montgomery Ave. (BLVD Lofts): Major site plan amendment for the conversion of street-level commercial space into 13 residential loft dwelling units. Case STP2025-00503.
6. 198 E. Montgomery Ave. (BLVD Lofts): Project plan for the conversion of street-level commercial space into 13 residential loft dwelling units. Case PJT2025-00020.
7. 255 Rockville Pike: Level 2 site plan for the change of use from office into residential with a vertical expansion. Case STP2025-00505.
8. 1150 Carnation Drive (Rockville Senior Center): Level 1 site plan for the construction of a new driveway entrance off West Gude Drive. Case STP2025-00504. See article on page 8.
9. 2000 Tower Oaks Blvd.: Final record plat for one parcel to facilitate improvements under STP2024-00473. Case PLT2025-00640.
10. 2097-2101 Gaither Road (Park Plaza): Level 2 site plan for a proposal to redevelop the property into 646,000 square feet of life-science uses. STP2024-00482.
11. 2200 Tower Oaks Blvd. (Tower Preserve): Final record plat for 82 lots, a total of 6.1 acres of residential area to facilitate improvements under STP2024-00473. Case PLT2025-00627 to PLT2025-00630.
12. 2401 Wootton Parkway (Rockshire Village): Final record plats for 60 lots, a total of 7.3 acres of residential area, to facilitate improvements under STP2024-00493. Case PLT2025-00637 to PLT2025-00639.
13. 11511 Fortune Terrace (Potomac Woods): Final record plats to resubdivide the property into 32 townhouse lots and six parcels to facilitate improvements under STP2025-00497. Cases PLT2024-00624 and PLT2024-00625.
14. 11511 Fortune Terrace (Potomac Woods): Final record plat for one lot, a total of 65,759 square feet of residential area, to facilitate improvements under STP2025-00497. Case PLT2025-00631.
15. 12501 Ardennes Ave. (Twinbrook Place): Level 2 site plan for the conversion of existing office space into a 181-unit residential building, with construction of three additional stories, approximately 60,000 square feet. Case STP2024-00465.
16. 15815-15825 Shady Grove Road, 2 Choke Cherry Road, 2094

- Gaither Road (Shady Grove Innovation District): Level 2 site plan for a proposal to construct a mixed-use development with lab/office and multifamily residential units. Case STP2024-00492.
17. 15815-15825 Shady Grove Road, 2 Choke Cherry Road, 2094 Gaither Road (Shady Grove Innovation District): Final record plat for five parcels and 136 lots. Case PLT2025-00632 to PLT2025-00636.
18. 15903 Somerville Drive (Shady Grove Metro): Annexation of Shady Grove Metro station. Case ANX2023-00147. See article on page 1.
19. 15931 Frederick Road (Lidl and The Henson): Final record/ownership plats for one lot, and dedication and two ownership lots to facilitate improvements under STP2022-00434. Cases PLT2024-00622 and PLT2024-00623.
Recently Approved Applications
The following applications were recently approved and are currently, or soon to be, under construction:
20. 414-416 Hungerford Drive (City Center): Level 2 site plan for a proposal to redevelop the property into a 291-unit multifamily building with structured parking, open space and dedication of a Maryland Avenue extension. Case STP2024-00487.
21. 622 Hungerford Drive (Washington Square): Level 2 site plan for a proposal to construct a residential development of 48 two-over-two condominium units. Case STP2024-00490.
22. 850 Nelson St. (Woodley Gardens): Level 2 site plan for a proposal to modify the existing pool house for school and pool uses, and overall site modifications and improvements. Case STP2024-00488.
23. 900 Rockville Pike: Project plan for a proposed 4,400-square-foot retail building with associated parking, landscaping and frontage improvements. Case PJT2023-00016.
24. 2200 Tower Oaks Blvd. (Tower Preserve): Level 2 site plan for a proposal to construct a residential development of 82 townhouses. Case STP2024-00473.
25. 2401 Wootton Parkway (Rockshire Village Center): Level 2 site plan for a proposal to construct 31 single-unit detached dwellings, 29 townhouses, a commercial building and neighborhood park. Case STP2024-00493.
26. 5906 Halpine Road: A floating zone map amendment, project plan and level 2 site plan application to permit construction of 36 two-over-two condominiums on the property. Cases MAP2024-00120, PJT2024, 00019, STP2024-00474.
27. 2401 Wootton Parkway (Rockshire Village): Project plan amendment to amend the planned development governing documents for the Rockshire Planned Development to redevelop the site into a mixed-use development of single-family detached dwellings, townhomes and neighborhood-serving retail. Case PJT2024-00017.
28. 1700-1818 Chapman Ave. (Twinbrook Commons): Level 2 site plan for a mixed-use building containing 437 multifamily residential units, 5,075 square feet of ground-floor retail and a parking garage. Case STP2022-00436.

Mayor & Council

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THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ARE HOLDING HYBRID MEETINGS. The public is welcome to participate in person or virtually.

Meetings Schedule:

Monday, April 7, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and April 28, at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details. A drop-in session from 5:15-6:15 p.m. with Mayor Monique Ashton and Councilmember David Myles will precede the April 28 meeting.

Share comments live during community forum. Sign up by calling the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website.

If you wish to submit comments in writing, please email mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov by 10 a.m. on the day of a community forum or public hearing.

Mayor and Council meetings are broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, live-streamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11 and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

Get Involved with the City

- **Send an email** to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to Mayor and Council, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** Find ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

See times and dates on the city's calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.

- **April 9 and 23** Planning Commission 7 p.m. (To participate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.)

Vacancies

- Board of Appeals (1)
- Board of Supervisors of Election (1)
- Community Policing Advisory Board (1)
- Cultural Arts Comm. (1)
- Human Rights Comm. (2)
- Human Services Advisory Board (2)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Comm. (2)
- Planning Comm. (2)
- Transportation and Mobility Comm. (1)
- Youth Comm. (3)

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.

Last Chance for Budget Input as Mayor and Council Continue Work

The Mayor and Council hold their final scheduled Fiscal Year 2026 budget work session in early April as the community has its final opportunity to provide budget input.

Monday, April 7 is the last day to provide input via the community budget priorities survey and budget public record. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to hold their final budget work session during the April 7 meeting, which begins at 5:30 p.m.

The survey at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget allows community members to identify their priorities and options for maintaining a balanced budget. It is available in English, Spanish and simplified Chinese. Responses provide valuable input to the Mayor and Council for their budget discussions.

The budget, which covers the fiscal year that begins July 1, is scheduled for adoption on Monday, May 5.

The proposed FY 2026 operating budget of \$174.9 million is a 3.9% increase over the FY 2025 adopted budget. The general fund budget, which supports the largest portion of the operating budget, is \$116.6 million, a 6.9% increase. The city's real property tax rate



of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation would remain the same for FY26. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate since 1995. The proposed FY 2026-FY 2030 Capital Improvements Program, the five-year plan for funding construction and infrastructure maintenance, supports 65 projects during FY26. Find the proposed budget and Capital Improvements Program at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Find staff reports and video of the city manager's proposed budget presentation from March 17 and Mayor and Council work sessions, and public hearings from March 17 and March 24, at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ▶

Rockville Advances Key Housing and Community Initiatives

Rockville's Department of Housing and Community Development is making strides in advancing housing initiatives and community support programs, following strategic planning and Mayor and Council work sessions.

Addressing Housing Needs

The city is moving forward with a Housing Needs Assessment, which received funding through a budget amendment approved by Mayor and Council on Feb. 24. This assessment will help identify key gaps and guide future housing policies.

Rockville Emergency Assistance Program

To provide additional support for renters, the city is expanding assistance through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program, also known as REAP. A special presentation on the program's enhancements is expected later this spring.

Tenant and Landlord Outreach

Efforts to increase education and outreach for landlords and tenants are also underway. The Housing Action Team recently conducted a tenant engagement meeting at a rental property and has another outreach event scheduled for April. The Mayor and Council approved additional funding for tenant outreach efforts through a Feb. 24 budget amendment.

Housing Preservation and Code Updates

Preserving existing affordable housing remains a priority for the Mayor and Council and city staff. DHCD, in collaboration the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, are developing a housing preservation plan, which is expected to be presented to

the Mayor and Council in early summer.

The city is also reviewing and updating Chapter 18 of the city code, which governs rental facilities and landlord-tenant relations. This update, which is in the research phase, will focus on enhancing tenant protections.

Building the Housing Opportunities Fund

In a step toward supporting long-term affordability, the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget aims to establish a stable, dedicated funding source for the housing opportunities fund, ensuring continued investment in housing solutions.

Expanding Homeownership Assistance

A work session on updates to Rockville's homeownership program is scheduled for the Monday, April 28 Mayor and Council meeting. The proposed FY26 budget includes funding for a dedicated staff member to manage homeownership programs.

Economic Empowerment and Job Training

Financial empowerment remains a key focus, with four Bank On workshops conducted in March. The proposed FY26 budget seeks to support financial empowerment initiatives, helping residents build financial stability.

City Planning and Economic Development

The Mayor and Council recently approved the Town Center Master Plan, outlining a long-term vision for Rockville's downtown.

In addition, research will begin soon on updates to the moderately priced dwelling unit ordinance, aimed at refining affordable housing policies.

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Vision Zero Makes Progress with Improvements and Public Meetings

Virtual Meeting April 30 to Discuss Bike Facilities

Vision Zero planning and projects are making progress as Rockville continues creating safer travel routes for all.

A virtual public meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 30 for staff to share three proposed alternatives to add bicycle facilities along East

Jefferson Street between Rollins Avenue and Congressional Lane and along Halpine Road between East Jefferson Street and Rockville Pike (MD 355). Staff will also solicit comments and suggestions from the public and will answer questions. Find details with the

continued on pg. 7...



City Hall: 240-314-5000

Police Non-Emergency: 240-314-8900

24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: 240-314-8567

STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

April is Flood Awareness Month

Flooding is the most common natural disaster. Anywhere it can rain, it can flood. It's important to take steps to prepare for flooding before it happens.

Rockville provides a variety of resources to help you be flood smart. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/flooding to:

- **Get the guide.** “Go With the Flow: A Homeowner’s Guide to Responsible Stormwater Solutions” is available in English, Spanish and simplified Chinese. It provides steps for identifying the source and severity of flooding, finding potential solutions, and consulting a contractor to confirm and execute the right solution for your property. It also explains how to apply for rebates to offset flood mitigation project costs.
- **Apply for funds from the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.** Rockville offers matching reimbursement funds of up to \$5,000 to residents and property owners who have made flood protection improvements to their properties.
- **Be prepared for future flooding.** Check out tips and resources for knowing your flood risk, reducing your risk, considering flood insurance and preparing for future flood events.
- **Report storm flood damage.** Rockville residents or property owners who have experienced flood damage associated with severe weather can help the city understand the impact of intense storms on our community by taking the Storm Flood Damage Survey.

Working on a Historic Property? You Could Qualify for a Tax Credit

Restoring or repairing the outside of a historic home? Preserving the exterior of a historic structure? You could be eligible for a property tax credit.

Rockville participates in a tax credit program for local structures designated as historic.

If your property in Rockville is designated by the city as historic and you spent at least \$1,000 on exterior maintenance between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024, you may be eligible for a reduction of your property taxes for the coming year, up to 25% of approved expenses.

- Eligible projects include:
- Exterior painting.
 - Uncovering and repairing original siding.
 - Repairing roofs or replacing them in-kind.
 - Repointing brick or stone foundations or chimneys.
 - Repairing windows, architectural trim or ornament.
 - Repairing and maintaining outbuildings, such as barns and garages.
 - Restoring a documented feature, such as a dormer or porch, that was altered or removed.

The city is accepting applications for work completed in calendar year 2024. For more information, contact 240-314-8236 or history@rockvillemd.gov.

Applications must be sent to history@rockvillemd.gov by Tuesday, April 15.

Rockville is Ready: Mayor and Council Approve Plan to Speed Adoption of Electric Vehicles

The Mayor and Council on March 24 adopted an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan that contains 26 actions to help support the transition from combustion engine vehicles to electric vehicles for City of Rockville residents, businesses and visitors.

The plan identifies how the city can work with county, state and federal programs toward rapid adoption of electric vehicles, identifying where EV chargers are needed and recommending actions to support equitable charging access amid a growing demand. That includes identifying policy and permitting needs, communicating the benefits and incentives available, installing grant-funded public chargers and converting fleet vehicles.

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Earth Month 2025 in Rockville

Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22, but Rockville celebrates throughout the spring.

The city got things underway on Saturday, March 22 by turning out the lights at the city’s maintenance facility from 8:30-9:30 p.m. for **Earth Hour**, an international effort in support of climate change action. Find ways to participate in Earth Hour every day at www.earthhour.org.

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to present a **proclamation marking Earth Hour and Earth Day** during their Monday, April 7 meeting, which begins at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

To commemorate Earth Month, Rockville will **waive permit fees** for certain environmentally friendly home improvements. *Learn more on page 1.*

Other events this month and beyond include:

Saturday, April 5: MCPS 2025 Youth Climate Summit, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Julius West Middle School, 651 Great Falls Road. A daylong conference to educate Montgomery County Public Schools students about climate change and give them tools to create climate action projects in their communities. Learn more at ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/YouthClimateSummit.

Saturday, April 5: Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanups. Stream cleanup sites include:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, 9:30 a.m.-noon.
- Maryvale Park, 812 First St., 10 a.m.-noon.
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway, 9:30-11 a.m.

City staff will greet volunteers. Gloves and bags will be provided. Student Service Learning hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Space is limited. Registration required at www.rockvillemd.gov/adopt-a-stream.

Saturday, April 26: City Nature Challenge, 9-10 a.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. City Nature Challenge is an annual worldwide event that encourages people in cities to get outside and observe nature in their community. Participate with CCNC staff to make observations in the forest preserve. Download the iNaturalist app from an app store before attending. Naturalists will teach you how to use the app and lead you on an excursion in the forest preserve to make observations of wildlife big and small. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages

6 and older. Register for course #35319 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Saturday, April 26-Sunday, April 27: Pull for the Planet. Various locations.

Help restore native habitat by volunteering to remove non-native invasive garlic mustard from Rockville parks. Pull sites include Croydon Creek Nature Center, RedGate Park, Dogwood Park and Fallsgrove Park. Student Service Learning hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required at www.rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors.

Sunday, April 27: Rockville Science Day, noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St. *See article on page 5.*

Saturday, May 3: Native Plant Sale, 9-11 a.m. at Elwood Smith Community Center, 601 Harrington Road.

Saturday, May 17: Spring Festival and Kids to Parks Day, 10 a.m.-noon at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Bring the whole family to enjoy nature games and crafts, woodland hikes, live animal meet and greets, sustainability exhibits, local vendors and more.

Find More Spring Activities at Croydon Creek Nature Center

Looking for more to do outside? Croydon Creek Nature Center offers hikes, campfires, nature outings, youth camps and more throughout the year. Learn more and register at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

Weed Warrior Workdays. Join Rockville Weed Warrior Leaders for non-native, invasive plant removal workdays. Student Service Learning hours available. Space is limited. Find upcoming events and register at www.rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors.

Adopt a Stream. Groups can adopt a Rockville stream and host cleanups to help keep litter out of local waterways. Apply at www.rockvillemd.gov/adopt-a-stream.

Plog Rockville. Pledge to clean up litter while you walk, jog or run through Rockville and receive a free plogging bag while supplies last. For more details and to take the pledge, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment.

‘Environment and Sustainability News’

Sign up for seasonal email newsletter updates on environmental events, volunteer opportunities and climate action news throughout the year. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select “Environment and Sustainability.”

Find more events at www.rockvillemd.gov/earthmonth.

Sewer Backups and What the City Can Do for You

When it comes to homeowner nightmares, few things are more stressful, inconvenient or damaging than having a sewer backup or water discharge into your home.

The city actively tries to educate the public that fats, oils and grease — also known as FOG — as well as wipes can cause blockages in sanitary sewer lines. When washing dishes, be sure to dispose of FOG in the trash before rinsing in the sink. And remember: Toilets aren’t trash cans. Only flush the four P’s down the toilet: pee, poop, puke and toilet paper.

While Rockville prohibits the discharge of any substance likely to cause a sewer obstruction, the city can’t guarantee backup-free sewer lines. But if your home experiences a sewer backup, the city can provide some assistance.

Before you contact a plumber to respond to a backup, call Rockville’s 24-Hour Public Works Emergency Hotline at 240-314-8567 and say you are reporting a utility emergency.

Once notified, the city will investigate to determine if the backup is in the portion of the lateral or mainline the city maintains. If the problem isn’t in the city-maintained lines, the property owner will

be told to contact a registered master plumber to locate the stoppage, remove it and clean out the lateral line. In rare cases, water may enter your home from a water main break in the city’s portion of the water distribution system. City crews can also respond to this utility emergency.

It’s very rare for utility providers to be held liable for damages from sewer backups or water main breaks. Because of this, Maryland requires all home insurers to offer coverage for water and sewer backup losses, in writing, at the time of homeowners insurance policy application and renewal. Your policy likely excludes coverage for losses due to sewer backups or water main breaks unless you specifically purchase an endorsement to your policy. Ask your insurance company what coverage and limits apply for losses that may occur through no fault of yours or the city’s.

The city’s Sanitary Sewer Backup, Water Main Break, and Stormwater Discharge Claims Policy can provide up to \$2,500 toward documented remediation costs and/or insurance deductible limits.

For more information, contact the city’s Safety and Risk Management Division at claims@rockvillemd.gov.

Drug Take Back Day: Drive Up, Drop Off Unwanted Medication

The Rockville City Police Department offers a safe, free and anonymous way to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs on Sunday, April 27.

City police will accept leftover — including expired — prescription drugs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Rockville City Police Station parking lot at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. RCPD officers and members of the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office will be outside with easy drive-up and drop-off access, so there is no need to get out of your vehicle.

Illicit drugs, liquids, needles, sharps or syringes cannot be accepted, only pills or patches. All returned medications will be destroyed by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a convenient and responsible means of disposal, keeping prescription drugs from potentially polluting our drinking water, while educating the public about

the potential for abuse or theft of these medications. During the most recent national collection in October, 4,425 law enforcement agencies collected 629,953 pounds — 314 tons — of unwanted prescription drugs, including 10,048 pounds in Maryland. All-time, the program has collected 9,600 tons over 27 national collection dates, including 263,840 pounds (nearly 132 tons) in Maryland.

Learn more about National Drug Take-Back Day at www.dea.gov. For more information about the city’s take-back, contact Cpl. Ronnie Crowe at 240-314-8974 or rcrowe@rockvillemd.gov.

Residents can also safely dispose of unused, unwanted or expired medication, with no questions asked, in a prescription drug drop box that is available to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in the front lobby of the Rockville City Police Station.

Rockets to Robots, Snakes to Stream Science — Rockville Science Day Offers Something for All

Explore rockets, robots, chemistry, reptiles and more at Rockville Science Day on Sunday, April 27.

This Rockville tradition, now in its 34th year, will be held from noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St. The free event offers individuals and families a chance to experience hands-on science and technology-related exhibits, activities, games and demonstrations from 100 local organizations and businesses.

Games, demos and exhibits include building and launching rockets, and exploring telescopes, robotics, backyard wildlife, ship models, microscopes, snakes, stream science, coding challenges, math puzzles, chemistry in action, electric vehicles, quadcopters, archaeology mini-digs, 3-D printing, brain games and much more.

Admission and parking are free. Food will be available for purchase. The event will be held rain or shine.

Visit rockvillesciencecenter.org

center.org/rockville-science-day for more information about the event, including exhibitor registration, sponsorship and volunteering. Student Service Learning hours are available for students 16 and older who help with exhibits on Sunday and/or with setup on Saturday.

Can't Wait for Science Day?

The Rockville Science Center hosts classes for all ages and engaging activities in the center's storefront at 36C Maryland Ave. and in the Rockville Makerspace at 33F Maryland Ave. RSC also hosts after-school and homeschool classes, winter and spring break programs, and summer camps. Learn more about these and other upcoming events at www.rockvillesciencecenter.org.

The Rockville Science Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit supported by the generous donations of its members and sponsors, including the City of Rockville. Learn how to support RSC at www.rockvillesciencecenter.org/support.

Gear Up for Bike Month in May

Get ready to ride as Rockville gears up for Bike to Work Day and Bike Month in May.

Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee Bike Month Kickoff Ride: Sunday, May 4

Meet at 10 a.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. Join Rockville officials and neighbors to celebrate National Bike Month. Pedal a casual 6-mile loop along multi-use trails and quiet residential streets to explore some of the city's extensive and diverse bicycling infrastructure. The route includes a few paths, bridges and tunnels.

National Bike and Roll to School Day: Wednesday, May 7

Start a celebration or event at your school! Visit www.walkbiketoschool.org or check with your school to see how you can join in. Remember: Montgomery County requires anyone under age 18 to wear a bicycle helmet when riding or being carried on a bicycle, including a bicycle with training wheels, on a public street, in right of way, or on a sidewalk or bicycle path.

National Bike to Work Day: 6:30 a.m. Thursday, May 15

Registration is now open at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org for all 15 Montgomery County pit stops, including at Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive, and a new stop at 36 Maryland Ave. at The Square in Rockville Town Center. Pit stops will have free snacks, beverages and bicycling giveaways while supplies last, and free T-shirts for the first 18,000 people in the Washington metropolitan region to register and stop by.

Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee Rollins Avenue Walk 'n' Roll: Thursday, May 15

Meet at 6 p.m. at the Evelyn Drive and Rollins Avenue intersection and join RPAC and city staff for a community walk 'n' roll along Rollins Avenue to Rockville Pike. Discuss pedestrian concerns and learn about ongoing city projects to improve the pedestrian environment.

Learn more about bicycling in Rockville: Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/rbac and www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling and search for "bike safety" at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville.

Need Help with Home Repairs? Reach Out to Rockville

April is Healthy Housing Month. Is your housing healthy?

Rockville's Department of Housing and Community Development is seeking applicants for its single-family rehabilitation program. Eligible homeowners can receive up to \$25,000 for home improvements.

Typical repairs include roof replacement, plumbing and electrical upgrades, furnace replacement, and kitchen and bathroom

rehabilitation.

The City of Rockville gives priority to low-income homeowners, with applicants ranked according to the severity of repairs needed.

The work is done at no cost to the owner unless the home is sold, rented or transferred within five years of work completion.

Learn more and download an application at www.rockvillemd.gov/196/Home-Repair-Loan-Assistance.



“ROCKVILLE ROLL CALL” takes a closer look at the Rockville staff members who serve our city.

In this edition, Rockville 11 talks with Megan Flick and Andrew Reitelbach, planners with the Department of Community Planning and Development Services, to find out more about them and their positions.

CPDS manages comprehensive and neighborhood planning, and regulates property development and construction projects within the city. The department's activities are guided by the community's vision, as expressed through the Mayor and Council's adopted comprehensive plan, goals for historic preservation, the zoning ordinance, building and property maintenance regulations, and other development regulations.

Learn more about CPDS at www.rockvillemd.gov/cpds. Find “Rockville Roll Call” on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable.

R11 LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11
www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

Building a Greener Future: Year Three of Climate Action

Rockville will mark three years of progress on its Climate Action Plan with an update to the Mayor and Council highlighting grants to support flood resiliency, an expanded city fleet of electric vehicles, new composting stations, and rebates for residents installing environmentally friendly landscaping.

The Mayor and Council initiated the plan in January 2022 with the goal of equitably reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and improving community and city resilience to



extreme weather. At their Monday, April 28 meeting, the Mayor and Council will hear an update on progress made over the last year.

Achievements from the progress report include:

- Since 2021, replaced a total of 25 vehicles in the city fleet to electric or hybrid models and expanded electric charging

continued on pg. 6...

\$30K State Grant to Enable Public Art Restoration

The Maryland State Arts Council has awarded Rockville a \$30,000 grant, the maximum available, to support conservation efforts on five public art pieces across the city.

Restoration work will begin this summer and continue through 2026.

The first piece slated for restoration is an untitled mural by artist Margery Albertini, created in 1993, located at the Lincoln Park Community Center. Work on this mural is scheduled to begin in August or September.

Additional art pieces included in the conservation project are:

- “Rockville” (1988), a sculpture by Nizette Brennan, at Monument Park.
- An untitled 1983 sculpture by John Ferguson, at James Monroe Park.
- “Taking Flight” (1999), a sculpture by Marcia Billing, at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.
- “Blossom” (2012), a sculpture by Wayne Healy, at the corner of Park Road and South Stonestreet Avenue.

The schedule for these remaining restorations will be determined soon.

Lincoln Park Art Needs Input

The Lincoln Park public art project is actively seeking input from residents. Surveys were mailed to Lincoln Park residents, who have until Friday, April 18 to respond. Surveys can be completed electronically via a provided QR code or returned through regular mail.

Residents may encounter teams at Memory Walk Park, conducting surveys in April on behalf of the city's arts and culture program. These efforts aim to gather extensive community feedback to inform the upcoming public artwork project.

Learn more about Rockville's public art at www.rockvillemd.gov/aipp.

Switch to Solar, Together, This Spring

Lower your energy costs, become energy independent and participate in the renewable revolution: Join Capital Area Switch Together to learn about options for installing a solar energy system on the rooftop of your home or small business.

The spring campaign for Switch Together, previously called Solar Switch, is open now through Wednesday, June 4. Financing for all incomes is available. This group buying initiative lets residents buy solar panels at a significant discount, with optional electric vehicle chargers and battery storage.

Switch Together will be the topic of a Climate Solutions Speaker Series session from 7-8 p.m. Thursday, May 1. Find a link to this virtual program with the May 1 event listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.

Learn more at SwitchTogether.com/Solar/Rockville.

Don't own a roof — or have one that is shaded? Consider joining a community solar project. Learn how at www.solarunitedneighbors.org/go-solar/community-solar.

EV Readiness Plan

continued from pg. 4...

Read the plan at engagerockville.com/evplan.

The vote follows the Mayor and Council's review of the plan during a work session on Feb. 24. Find video of the Feb. 24 work session and the March 24 adoption with staff reports for both meetings at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Electric vehicles cost less to operate, produce no exhaust, improve air quality and health, and — according to drivers of EVs in the city's fleet — are a delight to operate. The EV plan will also help Rockville achieve the goals of its Climate Action Plan.

Learn more about the Climate Action Plan at www.rockvillemd.gov/climate and in the article on this page. Find information about EV charger installation in the “Switch to Solar” article above.

Preserving the Past, Building a Sustainable Future: Rockville to Host Preservation Month Event

Rockville residents can learn how to modernize historic homes while preserving their character at a Preservation Month event on Saturday, May 17.

The event, themed “Sustainability in Historic Preservation,” will take place from 10 a.m.-noon at the Grey Courthouse, 27 Courthouse Square.

Attendees will explore energy-efficient and sustainable home upgrades that maintain the integrity of historic properties.

Local historic homeowners will share their experiences with making modern modifications while preserving their homes’ architectural heritage. The event will also provide guidance on best practices for balancing sustainability with historic preservation.

For more information, call 240-314-8200 or email history@rockvillemd.gov. Learn more about Rockville’s Historic Preservation Division at www.rockvillemd.gov/182/Historic-Preservation-Division.

Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Hosts Summer Hiring Event

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is seeking part-time summer staff and will host a hiring event 4-7 p.m. Thursday, April 3.

The event is open to anyone interested in summer employment at the center. No appointment is necessary.

The hiring event will serve as a one-stop shop for potential employees. Attendees can speak with management staff about available positions, complete an application on-site and take part in a skills evaluation for their preferred role. Those interested in swim-related positions should bring appropriate swim attire. Verbal interviews can also be scheduled during the event.

No prior certifications or work experience are required, and training opportunities will be available for prospective employees.

Individuals unable to attend but interested in working at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center can apply online at www.rockvillemd.gov/careers.

Find a flyer for the event with more information at www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.

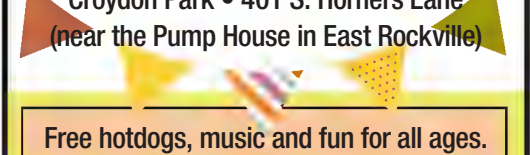
For additional questions, contact the center’s management team at 240-314-8750 or swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov.

International Night 2025
Friday, April 11, 6 p.m.



New location: Montgomery College Rockville Campus, Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center
Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/internationalnight

Rockville Villages Family Day Picnic
Celebrate Rockville’s Villages!
Sunday, May 4, 1-3 p.m.
Croydon Park • 401 S. Horners Lane (near the Pump House in East Rockville)



Free hotdogs, music and fun for all ages.

For more about Villages in Rockville, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/villages.

Health and Wellness, This Month at the Senior Center

Stay healthy, informed and entertained with seminars and events from the Rockville Senior Center in April.

Register with the course number at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Learn about 60-plus programs, courses, activities and services at www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter or by calling 240-314-8800. The senior center is located at 1150 Carnation Drive.

See the “Adults 60+” recreation guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/life for more information.

Drug Take Back

As part of the Drug Enforcement Administration national drug take-back initiative, officers from the Rockville City Police Department will collect unwanted, expired medications for proper disposal. No registration needed.

10 a.m.-noon. Tuesday, April 1. Free.

Medicare 101: Understanding the Basics

Join Mike Johnson for an easy-to-understand guide to Medicare. He’ll explain the different parts — A, B, C, and D — when to sign up, and how to choose the best plan for you.

Register with course #35875. 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8. Free.

CarFit

A quick, comprehensive check of how well you and your vehicle work together. A trained professional helps you complete a 12-point checklist. You must register for an appointment time for you and your car. Call Betty Figlure at 240-314-8803 to schedule. Facilitated by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Register with course #35375. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, April 9. Free.

Stress Reduction/ Meditation

Offers the tools to focus, relax, and come to a more peaceful sense of being, with time for meditation and discussion. Presented by Betty Figlure, the senior center’s wellness coordinator.

Register with course #35381. 1-2 p.m. Mondays, April 7-June 9. \$30 members/\$40 nonmembers. Virtual and in person.

Better Breather’s Club

Information and tips for respiratory and breathing issues. Presented by Kerri Donnelly of the American Lung Association.

Register with course #35380. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17. Free.

Keys to a Healthy Heart

Discover keys to improving heart health from Leni Barry of Suburban Hospital.

Register with course #35383. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, April 24. Free. Online.

A Place to Heal: No Longer in the Hospital

Navigate your insurance benefits, understand post-acute care options, and discover how to optimize your recovery. Presented by Kerri Donnelly, Montcare. Register with course #35386.

- **Session 1:** Understanding your needs and setting priorities. 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23. Free.
- **Session 2:** Evaluating options and rating criteria. 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 30. Free.
- **Session 3:** Making informed decisions and planning next steps. 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14. Free.

Health Fair

Visit the senior center for vendors, raffles, healthy snacks, health tests and vaccinations.

Wednesday, May 28. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. ▶

Building a Greener Future: Year Three

continued from pg. 5...

- stations on city property and rights of way to a total of 22 charging ports.
- Opened a third food waste compost drop-off station at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center to increase collection capacity. The three drop-off stations composted 114 tons of food scraps in 2024, a 17.5% increase from 2023.
- Reimbursed \$49,043 to residents for converting to environmentally friendly landscaping

through the RainScapes Rebate program.

To view last year’s Climate Action Plan Progress Report, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate. To receive an email update when the new progress report is available, and to find out what you can do to help on climate, sign up for the “Environment and Sustainability News” email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters. ▶

Fun is in the Air at Glenview

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall is closed for improvements until Sept. 1. The box office at Rockville Civic Center Cottage, 603 Edmonston Drive, sells tickets to offsite shows. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre for box office hours and ticket purchasing.

Murder at the Mansion presents “Bingo B4 Murder”

8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5; 2 p.m. Sunday, April 6 at Glenview Mansion.

It’s bingo night at the local retirement community, but after a series of unlucky draws, the bingo caller is murdered and all the players are suspects. It’s all fun and games until someone yells “bingo!” Tickets include dessert. Cash bar available. Recommended for ages 15 and older.

Tickets cost \$35; \$30 for seniors 65 and older and students 14 and older. Add on Maggiano’s Little Italy pasta buffet for an additional \$30 (two hours before performance).

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 240-314- 8690 or visit fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/Bingo.

The Rockville Concert Band Presents “The Magic and Music of Disney”

Directed by Christine Higley, the band will jour-

ney through Disney’s most beloved songs, including “Symphonic Highlights from Frozen,” and selections from “Mary Poppins” and “Pirates of the Caribbean,” 3 p.m. Sunday, April 13, in the Theatre Arts Building of Montgomery College, Rockville Campus.

No tickets are required; a suggested \$5 donation is appreciated. Visit rockvilleconcertband.org for a campus map and parking information.

Rockville Little Theatre presents “The Foreigner”

8 p.m. April 25 and 26 and May 2 and 3; 2 p.m. April 27 and May 4.

Hilarious hospitality awaits “The Foreigner” in Larry Shue’s classic stranger comedy. When the guests of the Meeks’ Georgia fishing lodge assume their new guest doesn’t understand them, he overhears everything from the hilarious to the nefarious! Note that “The Foreigner” contains prominent displays of racism and depicts racist language, and is recommended for ages 13 and older. Directed by Kathryn Hegwood.

The performance will take place at the Kreeger Auditorium of the Bender JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road.

Tickets cost \$22, \$20 for seniors and students. ▶

Summer Camp Slots Still Available

Missed the opening registration day for Rockville’s summer camps? No problem — we still have lots of activities available to keep your camper busy!

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/camps for more information. Register with the course number at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Here are a few to consider:

School of Music

This week-long day camp teaches kids how to play ukulele, percussion, sing and more. Instruments and supplies are provided. Held at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. For ages 8-12.

Register with course #35006 for Aug. 11-15 or 35007 for Aug. 18-22. Cost: \$348 for residents; \$369 for nonresidents.

Flag Football and Swim

Work on skills development and teamwork on the gridiron, then cool off with a refreshing dip at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center. Held at Welsh Park. For ages 6-12.

Register with course #35186 for June 23-26; #35187 for July 28-31; and #35188 for Aug. 4-7. Cost: \$230 for residents; \$250 for nonresidents.

Into the Metaverse

Explore the world of virtual reality and take part in other activities, including outdoor adventures, creative craft projects and field trips to the pool. For ages 11-14. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration and search “Metaverse” for camp options.

Cheer Madness Camp

Stunts, dance routines, beginner gymnastics and flexibility improvement are just a few of the things to learn during this camp. Equipment is included, including the poms. Students should wear closed-toe tennis shoes and leggings or shorts. For ages 6-12. Held at Thomas Farm Community Center.

Register with course #34950 for June 30-July 3 (\$249 for residents; \$269 for nonresidents) or #34972 for July 7-11 (\$315 for residents; \$335 for nonresidents). ▶

April CALENDAR

FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
GM Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
FSF F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.
LP Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.

- CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
SR Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
SFC Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
TF Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
TC Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.

- V** Virtual Program/Offering
H Hybrid: Offering both Virtual and In Person
F Facebook Live Event
E Earth Month Event



1 **COLLAGED BOX WORKSHOP** Create a decorative wooden box using paint and collage techniques to take home. Register with course #35326. \$13 M/\$16 NM. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

1 **DRUG TAKE-BACK** See article on page 6. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **SR**

1 **V ANIMALS FROM THE PATH** Meet animals from the North Carolina Zoo virtually and learn about their species and conservation. Register with course #35323. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

1 **"TUTI TENDER-HEART AND THE JOURNEY OF HOPE"** Author Cynethea Cunningham shares an inspiring story raising awareness about breast cancer, emphasizing resilience and community. Register with course #35200. \$3 M/\$5 NM. 2:30-3:30 p.m. **SR**

2 **AVOIDING PC SCAMS** Learn to detect and protect against common internet scams. Register with course #35332. \$14 M/\$27 NM. 10 a.m.-noon. **SR**

3 **ROCKVILLE SWIM AND FITNESS CENTER HIRING EVENT OPEN HOUSE** See article on page 6. 4-7 p.m. **SFC**

4 **SING ALONG WITH CONNIE HUGHES** Sing seasonal favorites, lyrics provided. Register with course #35209. \$4 M/\$6 NM. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

4,5,6 **MURDER AT THE MANSION PRESENTS "BINGO B4 MURDER"** See article on page 6. **GM**

5 **CONNECTED BY NATURE: A MINDFUL JOURNEY** Adult-child pairs explore nature journaling, mindfulness and scientific observation. Includes yoga, meditation and sketching. Series dates: April 5, 12; May 3, 10. Ages 8 and older. Register with course #35829. \$160 R/\$200 NR. 9-11 a.m. **CC**

5 **POTOMAC RIVER WATERSHED CLEANUP** See article on page 4. 9:30 a.m.-noon. **E**

6 **CROYDON CREEK CAMPFIRE: SOUNDS OF THE SEASON** Enjoy campfire activities focused on nature's spring sounds. Ages 5 and older. Registration required. Register with course #35827. \$6 R/\$7 NR. 2-3 p.m. **CC**

7,14,21,28 **H STRESS REDUCTION/MEDITATION** See article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

8 **KING FARM FARMSTEAD COMMUNITY VISIONING OPEN HOUSE** See article on page 1. 6:30-8:30 p.m. **TC**

8 **MEDICARE 101: UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS** See article on page 6. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

8 **SCIENCE TUESDAYS** Monthly scientist-led discussions on various topics. No scientific background required. Meets second Tuesday of each month. Register with course #35373. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

9 **CARFIT** See article on page 6. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. **SR**

9,19 **LITTLE EXPLORERS** Hands-on sensory activities, crafts, games, stories and hikes for ages 2-5. Each session has a different nature theme. Preregistration required. Register with course #35312 (April 9) and #35313 (April 19). \$10 R/\$12 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

11 **INTERNATIONAL NIGHT** See ad on page 6. 6-8 p.m. Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center.

13 **ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "THE MAGIC AND MUSIC OF DISNEY"** See article on page 6. 3 p.m. Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, Theatre Arts Building.

22 **V STORYTELLING WITH ERIN: HOW NATURE DEFINES PALETTE AND PATTERN** Explore nature's influence on daily life aesthetics. Register with course #35198. \$7 M/\$10 NM. 1-2 p.m.

22 **V KING FARM FARMSTEAD COMMUNITY VISIONING VIRTUAL MEETING** See article on page 1. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

23,30, May 14 **A PLACE TO HEAL: NO LONGER IN THE HOSPITAL** See article on page 6. **SR**

24 **EL CÍRCULO DE DERECHOS** Presentación educativa sobre accidentes cerebrovasculares y recuperación. Inscribáse con el curso #34106. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

25-27, May 2-4 **ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS "THE FOREIGNER"** See article on page 6. Kreeger Auditorium, Bender JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road.

26 **4TH ANNUAL ROCKVILLE SKATE JAM** A family-friendly skateboarding event featuring competitions and demos. Free. Preregistration recommended. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/ registration and search for "skate jam." 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Rockville Skate Park, 355 Martins Lane.

26 **CITY NATURE CHALLENGE** See article on page 4. Ages 6 and older. 9-10 a.m. **CC** **E**

26-27 **PULL FOR THE PLANET: VOLUNTEER GARLIC MUSTARD PULL** See article on page 4. **E**

27 **ROCKVILLE SCIENCE DAY** See article on page 5. Noon-5 p.m. Montgomery College, Rockville Campus.

27 **DRUG TAKE BACK DAY** See article on page 4. Free. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rockville City Police Station, 2 W. Montgomery Ave. **E**

30 **BEGINNER BIRD WALK** Bird watching and identification workshop. Register with course #35205. Register with course #35205. \$12 M/\$15 NM. 9:30-11:30 a.m. **SR**

30 **V EAST JEFFERSON STREET AND HALPINE ROAD BICYCLE FACILITIES STUDY MEETING** See article on page 3. 6:30-7:30 p.m.

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • M = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR

RCPD Crime Stats

continued from pg. 1...

thefts and vandalism, increased by 13.1% (from 1,863 to 2,107). Crimes against society, including drug, prostitution and weapons offenses, decreased by 16.3%, from 92 to 77.

RCPD responded to 26,047 calls — nearly 83% of the 31,397 calls for service in the city in 2024. The Montgomery County Police Department's First District Station and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office responded to 13%. Residents used the county Telephone Reporting Unit to report 982 non-emergency incidents, and a small number of calls were handled by neighboring municipal police departments.

The report provides statistics about arrests, officers assaulted, use-of-force incidents and the city's speed camera program. It also highlights the officer and civilian staff member of the year, Rockville Public

Safety Award honorees, several department divisions and services, community engagement efforts and officer recruitment. It will be included in an annual report published by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments this summer.

Read the report at www.rockvillemd.gov/police. **▶**

Vision Zero Makes Progress

continued from pg. 3...

April 30 calendar listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar. Comments can be submitted at any time to bbwoods@rockvillemd.gov.

The city installed a temporary pedestrian safety improvement at Mannakee Street and Smallwood Road in March by adding flex posts separating the travel lane from a marked no-parking zone. A concrete pedestrian refuge island providing a place for pedestrians to wait while crossing Mannakee

Street will be installed as a permanent improvement when the street is resurfaced this summer. Another concrete pedestrian refuge median will be constructed to ease pedestrian crossings and slow vehicle traffic on Twinbrook Parkway at Meadow Hall Drive when Twinbrook Parkway is resurfaced later this year.

City staff was scheduled to host a public meeting to discuss the Congressional Lane Complete Streets study on Thursday, March 27, after the publication deadline for "Rockville Reports." Last year, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments awarded Rockville \$80,000 to assess roadway conditions and evaluate potential improvements along Congressional Lane between Rollins Avenue and Rockville Pike (MD 355). Learn about this and other projects that are part of the city's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzeroprojects. **▶**

Key Housing and Initiatives

continued from pg. 3...

Rockville is also participating in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity Economic Mobility Cohort, working alongside the City Manager's Office, the Department of Community Planning and Development Services, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and the Urban Institute. This collaborative effort seeks to enhance economic mobility and community development.

As Rockville advances these initiatives, residents can expect continued engagement and policy updates designed to strengthen housing access, affordability and economic opportunity throughout the city.

Learn more about services provided by DCHD at www.rockvillemd.gov/hcd. **▶**



Performers and Sponsors Wanted for Rockville Pride

Rockville is seeking performers and sponsors to help celebrate its LGBTQ+ community during the ninth annual Rockville Pride festival.

Hosted by the city's Human Rights Commission, Rockville Pride will be held Sunday, June 1 in Rockville Town Square Park in Rockville Town Center Park at The Square, 131 Gibbs St. The event is free, open to all ages and wheelchair accessible.

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact Delores Scott at 240-314-8108 or dscott@rockvillemd.gov.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/pride.

Advisory Group Continues Rockville Senior Center Entrance Planning

Planning for a new entrance at the Rockville Senior Center moved forward in March with the project's advisory group voting in favor of promoting the new West Gude Drive entrance as the center's primary entrance, including changing the address of the facility to West Gude Drive.

City staff presented a summary of public comments about the 30% design plan for the new entrance and the city's responses, discussed next steps, and provided an updated project timeline during a March 4 meeting.

Following the meeting, staff developed a list to direct the consultant in developing the 60% plan design. The list includes adding a fence or landscape buffers between 1010 Aster Blvd. and the center, adding a 5-foot-wide sidewalk along the west side of the new entrance, recommending landscape buffer materials for both sides of the new entrance driveway, evaluating a deceleration lane on eastbound West Gude Drive, adding "no turn on red" for traffic exiting the center onto West Gude Drive, evaluating adding a crosswalk on the east side of Piccard Drive, evaluating potential improvements to address pedestrian and bicycle safety on the Millennium Trail, assessing turns by large vehicles and buses using the West Gude Drive entrance, and using gate systems with limited-access card operation on both ends of the access road, at the parking lot near West Gude Drive and at the circle at Carnation Drive.

The advisory group will meet again after the consultant submits the 60% plan to discuss additional plan details, including gate system access.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/senior-center-entrance or contact Jennifer Wang, senior transportation engineer, at jwang@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8506.



New Sign Honors Escape From Slavery

Mayor Monique Ashton, members of the Historic District Commission and city staff unveiled a new Civil War Trails sign in March honoring Zedekiah Thompson, a formerly enslaved man who self-emancipated and later served in the U.S. Army. The sign stands at North Washington Street and Wood Lane.

Created in partnership with local historians and Civil War Trails, Inc., the sign is part of Rockville's Black History Month recognition. Thompson's story joins over 1,500 Civil War Trails sites across six states, including 18 in Montgomery County. These locations allow visitors to explore history firsthand using trail maps and guides.



Save the Date for the Return of Hometown Holidays to Rockville Town Center in May

The city's 37th annual Hometown Holidays festival returns to Rockville Town Center on Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25 with entertainment, food and shopping, followed by the city's annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade on Monday, May 26.

Hometown Holidays at Rockville Town Center will offer a more local, community-based focus than past years, encouraging festivalgoers to join their neighbors and show their Rockville spirit. It will once again feature two stages of entertainment for all ages and music from a variety of genres, including rock, pop, country, bluegrass, blues and more. Confirmed acts include The Nighthawks, Capital Effect, 8 Ohms, Blaggards and The Hillbilly Biscuits. The full schedule will be announced in mid-April.

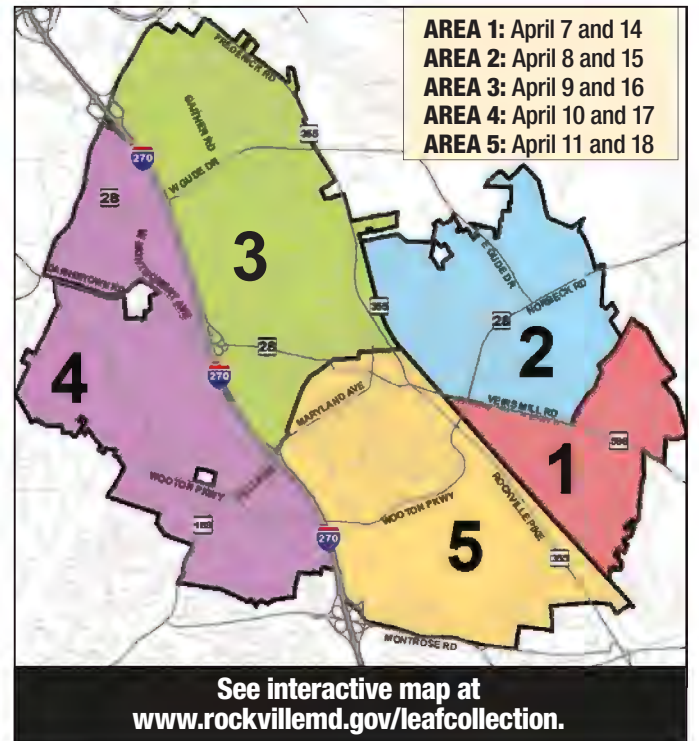
Food and beverages from local restaurants and vendors will be available for purchase. Festivalgoers will be able to experience food from around the world while previewing this summer's Explore Rockville Global Bites campaign, shopping local artisans in a new shopping area, and taking part in yard games and crafts. Outreach booths will connect

attendees with festival sponsors, community groups and city services.

The festival is accessible via Metrobus and Metrorail, Ride On, rideshare, biking or walking. Free and paid parking lots will be available.

The Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade, a city tradition for 81 years, featuring more than 50 dance, marching and community groups from around the region, will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 26 in Rockville Town Center. This year's parade theme is "Magic in America." Find more information about the parade, including how to participate, at www.rockvillemd.gov/memorialday. Applications must be submitted by Friday, April 4.

Find more about Hometown Holidays at Rockville Town Center, including applications for artisans, food vendors and community and political groups, at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH. Follow "City of Rockville Hometown Holidays" on Facebook for more details as they are announced and find the Hometown Holidays at Rockville Town Center insert in the May/June print edition of "Rockville Reports." ▶



Spring Rake! April Leaf Collection

The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from Monday, April 7-Friday, April 18 in five collection areas throughout Rockville.

Rake leaves next to, but out of, roadways, gutters and bike lanes, and away from parked vehicles. Leaves should be raked by 6 a.m. on the first day of their collection period,

but no earlier than one week before the collection dates to avoid grass damage or fire hazards. Remove sticks and other objects from leaf piles. Avoid parking near leaf piles or other vehicles.

Do not dump leaves, grass clippings or other yard waste into storm drains, along stream banks or directly into streams. ▶

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Register Early!

Presented by City of Rockville and Montgomery County Road Runners Club

Saturday, June 14
7:30-9:30 p.m.

Suds & Soles offers a race for the entire family!

This fun 5k runs through neighborhood streets and begins and ends in Rockville Town Center with a post-race party featuring beverage samples, light refreshments and live music. The race also features a KidZone, which includes a Kids Fun Run and activities for children ages 10 and younger.

Scan the QR code or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/sudsandsoles to register.

VISARTS' 13TH ANNUAL

ROCKVILLE ARTS FESTIVAL

MAY 3-4, 2025 | 10 AM-5 PM | THE SQUARE

Maryland Ave + E Middle Ln

130 Artists + Artisans
Makers Market
Art Demonstrations
Chalk Art Competition
Food Trucks
Free Admission
Free Two-Hour Parking
Red Line Metro Accessible



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Rockville Reports is the official publication of the City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. It is delivered to all homes and businesses within Rockville's city limits. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8108; TTY 240-314-8137.

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